

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A vertical boat for heat treatment comprising:

a top plate;

a bottom plate; and

three or more column members fixed between the top plate and the bottom plate, a plurality of grooves being formed in each column member so as to create a supporting part for horizontally supporting a wafer-like body to be treated between the grooves,

wherein each column member of the three or more column members has a circular arc-shaped cross section and is cylindrically disposed,

~~wherein each column member of the three or more column members has the supporting parts in the shape of circular arc having a center angle of 20° to 100°, the supporting parts and the column member being a monolithic piece of a same material, and~~

wherein each column member of the three or more column members has a plurality of individual supporting parts in the vertical direction,

wherein the supporting parts of the three or more columns are arranged to form sets of supporting parts having a common vertical height, the supporting parts of the sets not being connected to each other but forming a common horizontal plane,

wherein the supporting parts all have the shape of circular arc having a center angle of 20° to 100°,

wherein the supporting parts and the column member are a monolithic piece of a same material, and

wherein the wafer-like body to be treated is inserted from the grooves of the column members and supported along a circumferential part of a lower surface thereof by the three or more respective circular arc-shaped supporting ~~parts~~parts in the common horizontal plane.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 11, wherein the column members are provided with a vent at the same height as each of the grooves.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 14, wherein the vertical boat for heat treatment is for heat treatment of a silicon wafer.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 14, wherein an edge of a supporting surface of the supporting part is chamfered.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The vertical boat for heat treatment according to Claim 14, wherein the supporting surface of the supporting part is downward sloped in the direction of the inside.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a vertical boat for heat treatment of a horizontally supported wafer-like body to be treated which comprises a top plate, a bottom plate, and a column member fixed between the top plate and the bottom plate, the method comprising:

manufacturing column members, each of which has a circular arc-shaped cross section having a center angle of  $20^{\circ}$  to  $100^{\circ}$  and has a larger outside radius and a smaller inside radius than a radius of the body to be treated;

cylindrically disposing three or more said column members between the top plate and the bottom plate to fix the column members; and

forming grooves in each of the column members so as to create circular arc-shaped supporting parts each of which has a center angle of  $20^{\circ}$  to  $100^{\circ}$  for supporting in the inside thereof the wafer-like body to be treated along a circumferential part of its lower surface, and the supporting parts and the column member being formed as a monolithic piece of a same material.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a vertical boat for heat treatment, the method comprising:

cylindrically disposing two or more column members having a circular arc-shaped cross section between a top plate and a bottom plate to fix the column members;

cutting the column members from a direction to insert the body to be treated thereby to form grooves and at the same time to form circular arc-shaped supporting parts in the inside thereof; and

cutting the column members from a second direction different from the direction, the column members being cut at the same height thereby to form throughholes within each column member.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a vertical boat for heat treatment, the method comprising:

preparing column members each of which has a circular arc-shaped cross section and has a beam outside;

cylindrically disposing two or more said column members between a top plate and a bottom plate to fix the column members; and

cutting each of the column members with a cutting unit from a direction to insert a body to be treated thereby to form grooves, at the same time to form the circular arc-shaped supporting parts in the inside thereof, and further to pass through the other parts than the beam, the cutting unit having a circumferential blade which has a radius larger than an inside radius of the column members and smaller than an outside radius of a part to be said beam.